

WILLIAM CHRISTENBERRY

Southern Views



THE TWENTY-EIGHTH CORCORAN BALL

This publication was made possible by a generous grant from the

FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

Cover photo: COLEMAN'S CAFE, William Christenberry, Mixed Media, 1982.

Under the Gracious Patronage of
The Vice President of the United States
and Mrs. Bush

THE TWENTY - EIGHTH CORCORAN BALL

Sponsored by
The Trustees and the Women's Committee
of the Corcoran Gallery of Art
April 22, 1983

THE BALL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Anthony John Thompson, *Chairman*

Mrs. Dana T. Ackerly, II
Mrs. David K. Berler
Mrs. Alan B. Cox
Mrs. George C. Denby
Mrs. Harry H. Farr
Mrs. John D. Firestone
Mrs. Benjamin C. Fisher
Mrs. Lee M. Folger
Mrs. John O. Hedden

Mrs. Richard C. Hotvedt
Mrs. James R. Kleeblatt
Mrs. Robert W. Oliver
Mrs. Michael J. Petite
Mrs. Raymond J. Rasenberger
Mrs. Leonard L. Silverstein
Mrs. John K. Tabor
Mrs. Robert D. Wallick

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

Frieda J. Arth
Mrs. Martin Atlas
Mrs. James A. Baker, III
Mrs. S. Robert Baldinger
Mrs. Malcolm Baldrige
Mrs. Frederick J. O. Blachly
Mrs. Raymond C. Brophy
Mrs. Philip R. Carr
Mrs. Robert L. Cohen
Mrs. Nicholas J. Coolidge
Mrs. Warren J. Cox
Mrs. Kenneth Crosby
Mrs. David H. Cunningham
Mrs. Stuart C. Davidson
Mrs. Jane Roberts De Graff
Mrs. Charles J. Di Bona
Mrs. William H. Draper, III
Nancy H. Dutton
Mrs. Reed M. Fawell, III
Mrs. Israel S. Feld
Laurie G. Firestone
Marilyn Bush Funderburk
Mrs. Julian E. Gillespie, Jr.
Mrs. Allan E. Gotlieb
Mrs. Gilbert Hahn, Jr.
Mrs. John W. Hechinger
Mrs. Joseph W. Henderson
Mrs. James P. Holden
Mrs. Raymond J. Howar
Mrs. Bernard B. Jacobs
Mrs. Freeborn G. Jewett
Miss Katherine duF. Keogh
Mrs. Gilbert H. Kinney
Mrs. Austin Kiplinger
Mrs. John W. Kluge

Mrs. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr.
Mrs. Gloria Elliott Lemos
Mrs. Drew Lewis
Mrs. William Lilley
Mrs. John M. Loud
Mrs. James R. Lowe, Jr.
Mrs. Eugene Lundgren
Mrs. Jerry R. Lyman
Gloria Marchello
Mrs. Forrest E. Mars, Jr.
Mrs. Ernest N. May, Jr.
Mrs. James M. Mead
Mrs. William R. Morris, Jr.
Mrs. John E. Nolan
Mrs. Jean McD. Nowak
Mrs. John W. Pettit
Mrs. N. Thompson Powers
Mrs. Marta M. Ross
Mrs. B. F. Saul
Mrs. Gerald Schoenfeld
Mrs. Lee J. Seidler
Mrs. John Shubert
Mrs. David S. Smith
Susannah Smith
Mrs. W. Dean Smith
Mrs. Michael I. Sovern
Mrs. Leonard Sullivan, Jr.
Mrs. James J. Tansey
Mrs. Harry Teter, Jr.
Mrs. Robert W. Truland
Mrs. Peter van Roijen
Mrs. Alan S. Ward
Mrs. C. D. Ward
Mrs. Nicholas D. Ward
Mrs. James McS. Wimsatt



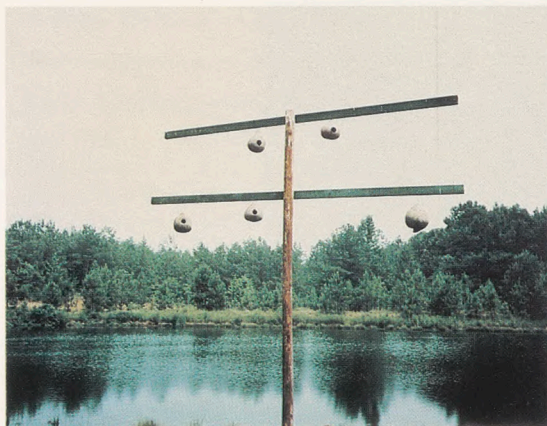
William Christenberry,
SOUTHERN MONUMENT VII
(with gourd tree), 1981.

We know all too well that these are difficult times for institutions. The very fabric of our ability as a society to support institutions is everywhere being tested. As we work hard to find and set reasonable priorities we are aware of how much needs to be done. But we are, in the face of this test, unremittingly optimistic. We share in the growing conviction that the Corcoran is on the threshold of a new era of energy, vitality and accomplishment. The Museum and School are regularly demonstrating their quality, their importance and their unique functions in their fields.

Our partner in this optimism is the Women's Committee. The Committee has, over the years, worked tirelessly to support the essential functions of the Gallery. It has always been a willing collaborator in the work that needs to be done. And with the annual Corcoran Ball they prove that the work can be done with joy and grace.

To Mrs. John K. Tabor, Chairman of the Women's Committee, and Mrs. Anthony J. Thompson, Chairman of this year's Ball, and to all the Committee Members who have worked for eleven and a half months to create this evening for us, may we say thank you for what truly is the party of the year.

Michael Botwinick, *Director*



William Christenberry
GOURD TREE, 1979
Pickins City, Alabama.

The exhibition previewed at The Twenty-Eighth Corcoran Ball
WILLIAM CHRISTENBERRY: *Southern Views*
was made possible by grants from

THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION

THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE CORCORAN
GALLERY OF ART

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The exhibition was organized by the Institute for the Arts,
Rice University, with the support of the deMenil Foundation.



William Christenberry
NEW GRAVE, 1979
Hale County, Alabama.

WILLIAM CHRISTENBERRY: *Southern Views* presents us with an astonishingly complete look into the most intimate imaginative workings of an extraordinary individual. Bill Christenberry is of course a leading Washington, D.C. artist, but his origins and his artistic subjects are located in rural Alabama. The entire range of American Southern subjects—the traditions of agrarian life, family continuities, the homely rituals of Baptist church and roadside cafe, lush and barren landscapes, and the ominous ever-present undertone of tenacious racial anxieties—all this rich and complex reality of the artist's childhood finds its way into the imagery presented here. Christenberry is able to grasp the multifaceted psychological structure of his formative culture by virtue of his amazingly polymathic nature as an artisan: he seems equally at home in media as diverse as conventional draughtsmanship, painting, printmaking, sculpture, assemblage and photography. He is an artist of both formidable poetic intelligence and protean technical competency.

The present occasion marks by far the most extensive gathering together ever undertaken of Christenberry's complicated oeuvre. Added to the many crafted art works here are various found objects, primarily weathered metal signs, that the artist has collected over the years and lived with daily in the strangely crowded yet orderly environment of his Connecticut Avenue studio. The show not only attempts to convey

but to reproduce the atmospherics and many of the actual physical objects out of which he has created his highly sophisticated art works.

Perhaps the accretive tour de force of the artist's prodigious output is the immensely complex environmental assemblage known as the Klan Room. This work is the result of years of designing, fabricating and collecting objects relating to the Ku Klux Klan, ranging from genuine Klan pamphlets and costumes to the dozens of GI Joe dolls wearing miniature beaded satin Klan costumes Christenberry has had made by Washington seamstresses. The implications of the Klan Room for the artist and for the viewer transcend any simple political statement: obviously the *raison d'être* of the art work, while it acknowledges the presence of the Klan as an important part of the artist's psychic environment, also implies a profound revulsion for the Klan's mythos. The Klan Room may be seen as an act of exorcism, a kind of confrontation and esthetic transformation of a loaded cultural idea, turning something secret, subtly taboo, into something held to light and owned by the artist. A tenaciously rancorous tradition is demystified by the artist and given life as a complex esthetic entity. Its potency now is in its nature as public domain, as *presented art*, and not in its symbolism of a separatist cause.

That the Ku Klux Klan subject matter has so obsessively engaged the artist over a twenty-year period in no way mitigates the simple love and nostalgia which permeate other aspects of Christenberry's work, particularly the building constructions and many of the photographs. The entire output requires consideration as a single multifarious endeavor, created in a spirit of simultaneous dedication to making new art, and externalizing a singular personal experience.

Jane Livingston, *Associate Director and Chief Curator*



William Christenberry, DREAM BUILDING VARIANT, 1980.

The Women's Committee of t

wishes to extend their

THE SHUBERT C

for sponsoring the



The Corcoran Gallery welcomes THE SHUBERT ORGANIZATION to Washing

of the Corcoran Gallery of Art

and their special gratitude to

ART ORGANIZATION

ing the Ball decorations



Washington when it reopens the doors of the National Theater in the Fall of 1983

PATRONS

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Abramson
Mr. William J. Askin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Asmar, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Atlas
Page Avery
Mrs. Philip Barry
Mr & Mrs. Morton A. Bender
Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard G. Bechhoefer
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. O. Blachly
Mr. & Mrs. Philip W. Bonsal
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar H. Brenner
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond C. Brophy
Mr. & Mrs. I. Townsend Burden, III
Mr. & Mrs. Powell M. Cabot
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. Aldus H. Chapin
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Chase
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Chester
Dr. & Mrs. Ashur G. Chavoor
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Warfield Clark
Miss Alice W. Clement
The Coca-Cola Company
Gov. & Mrs. Philip Coldwell
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Conant
Mrs. Ethel Danzansky
Mr. & Mrs. Ross D. Davis
Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edwards-Kilsheimer
Ernst & Whinney
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Farquhar
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Firestone
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Merritt Folger
Mr. & Mrs. Carl M. Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. John Basil Gantt
Garfinckel's
Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Goldman
Col. & Mrs. Julius Goldstein
John Deardourff & Elizabeth Griffith
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Haas
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Hall, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Hambleton
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Harkins
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Healy, III
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Hechinger
Senator & Mrs. John Heinz
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Holden
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph F. Horning
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Howar
Mr. & Mrs. Hadlai A. Hull
IBM Corporation
Mr. & Mrs. Freeborn G. Jewett, Jr.
Mr. J. Willis Johnson
Priscilla Bruce Johnson
Louis & Sally Kaplan
Mr. & Mrs. Yale Kneeland, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Koteen
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Lackland
Henry W. Lavine
Mr. Alfred J. Law
Hon. & Mrs. Robert E. Lee
Gen. S. Kenric Lessey, Jr.
Mr. Barrett M. Linde
Mr. & Mrs. Stacy B. Lloyd, III
Hon. & Mrs. John A. Logan
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. McCormick
Mrs. Emmett H. Markwood
Mr. & Mrs. Martin F. Malarkey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Marmet
Mrs. Forrest E. Mars
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest N. May, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Merrill
Mr. & Mrs. George B. Mickum
Mr. & Mrs. G. William Miller
Mrs. Henry A. Monat
Mr. & Mrs. John U. Nef
Ms. Barbara J. Nevin
Gen. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Nichols
Mr. Maxwell Oxman
Mrs. Jefferson Patterson
Capt. & Mrs. Francis E. Pearson, III
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Pettit
Dr. & Mrs. Michael J. Petite
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Pollack
Mr. & Mrs. Ramsay D. Potts
Mr. & Mrs. N. Thompson Powers
Dr. & Mrs. John T. Queenan
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Quigley
Mrs. Lewis Rosenstiel
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Samorajczyk
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley J. Sarnoff
Mr. & Mrs. Bob L. Schieffer
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr.
Mr. Marc Harry Shecter
Col. & Mrs. C. Haskell Small
Mrs. John Lewis Smith, Jr.
Peggy Brooks Smith
Mr. & Mrs. W. Dean Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Newton I. Steers, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James Tansey
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony John Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Tornberg
Mr. Lewis R. Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. Sherman E. Unger
Mr. Donald Wallace
Mrs. Ann C. Van Devanter
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Webb, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Werner
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Westreich
Amb. & Mrs. Charles S. Whitehouse
Hon. & Mrs. Frank Wille

SPONSORS

American Security Bank, N.A.
Bristol Myers Company
C & P Telephone Company
CBS, Inc.
Clyde's, Inc.
Exxon Corporation
General Electric Company
GTE Corporation
Getty Oil Company
Gulf Oil Corporation
Lord & Taylor
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.
NS&T Bank, N.A.
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association
The Riggs National Bank
Rockwell International Corporation
Russell, Reynolds, Associates Inc.
B.F. Saul Company
Swanke Hayden Connell Architects
Woodward & Lothrop

The Women's Committee particularly wishes to thank the following for their special contributions

Mrs. George Bush—*Spring Tea*

Mr. Harry Teter, Attorney—*The National Theater*

The Embassy Row Hotel—*Pre-Ball Party*

Wedgewood Productions, Inc.—*Pamela Arth and Kevin Grigsby*

Nosegay Flower Shop, Inc.—*Edward Huffcut*

Society of American Florists—*Darryl McEwen*

The Sheraton Carlton Hotel—*Complimentary Ball Suites*

Manhattan Auto

BMW of Fairfax

Mills Motor Cars of Baltimore

—*Ambulance Service*

Kathrynn Westhoff—*Administrative Services—Hamel, Park, McCabe & Saunders*

Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey—*Susannah Smith*

Neiman-Marcus—*Mary Ann Lundgren*

Manatee Fruit Co.—*The Gladioli*

Woodward and Lothrop

The Women's Committee wishes to thank the

PEPSI-COLA BOTTLERS COMPANY OF WASHINGTON, D.C., INC.

for its continuing donations of all soft drinks for the Ball

THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Mrs. John K. Tabor, *Chairman*

Mrs. Dana T. Ackerly, II	Mrs. Benjamin C. Fisher	Mrs. Robert W. Oliver
Mrs. Lucius D. Battle	Mrs. Edward S. Fleming	Mrs. Alfred M. Osgood
Mrs. Duane Beckhorn	Mrs. Lee M. Folger	Mrs. Malcolm E. Peabody
Mrs. David K. Berler	Mrs. Robert E. Freer, Jr.	Mrs. Michael J. Petite
Mrs. Albert J. Beveridge, III	Mrs. Paul Gardner, Jr.	Mrs. Richard M. Powell
Mrs. Thomas H. Boggs, Jr.	Mrs. Stephen S. Gardner	Mrs. Raymond J. Rasenberger
Mrs. Edgar H. Brenner	Mrs. Bernard S. Gewirz	Mrs. John Rockwood
Mrs. Richard Gerald Brown	Mrs. David G. Hanes	Mrs. Marcia G. Sandground
Mrs. Fred C. Brumbaugh	Mrs. John O. Hedden	Mrs. Stanley J. Sarnoff
Mrs. Poe Burling	Mrs. Richard C. Hotvedt	Mrs. Stuart T. Saunders, Jr.
Mrs. Carter Burns	Mrs. Hadlai A. Hull	Mrs. Perry K. Sellon
Mrs. John C. Chester	Mrs. William R. Hunnicutt	Mrs. Leonard L. Silverstein
Miss Alice W. Clement	Mrs. James F. C. Hyde, Jr.	Mrs. John Lewis Smith, Jr.
Mrs. Alan B. Cox	Mrs. James R. Kleeblatt	Mrs. Anthony J. Thompson
Mrs. David H. Cunningham	Mrs. David Lloyd Kreeger	Mrs. William G. Tinsley
Mrs. James Madison Cutts	Mrs. C. McKenzie Lewis, Jr.	Mrs. Wynant D. Vanderpool, Jr.
Mrs. George C. Denby	Mrs. Keith M. Lindgren	Mrs. Robert D. Wallick
Mrs. Robert W. Dudley	Mrs. Gunilla Lindh-Foster	Mrs. Charles S. Whitehouse
Mrs. Harry H. Farr	Mrs. T. Perry Lippitt	Mrs. Randolph Winslow
Mrs. Reed M. Fawell, III	Mrs. John A. Logan	Mrs. Ellis Wisner
Mrs. George M. Ferris, Jr.	Mrs. Garry M. Miller	Mrs. George A. Wyeth
Mrs. John D. Firestone	Mrs. Robert B. Nelson, Jr.	Mrs. John H. Zentay

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Mrs. Dean G. Acheson	Mrs. C. Leslie Glenn	Mrs. John Rodgers Slidell
Mrs. Philip Barry	Mrs. H. Struve Hensel	Mrs. Richard Stifel
Mrs. Huntington T. Block	Lady Margretta Jamieson	Mrs. John W. Sweeterman
Mrs. Wiley T. Buchanan	Mrs. David Brewer Karrick	Mrs. Mary H. D. Swift
Mrs. Calvert Carey	Mrs. G. Reber Littlehales	Mrs. James D. Theberge
Mrs. Leonard Carmichael	Mrs. Frederick Merrill	Mrs. Corcoran Thom, Jr.
Mrs. John C. Chapin	Mrs. Jefferson Patterson	Mrs. Robert Van Roijen
Mrs. James O. Denby	Mrs. Armistead Peter, III	Mrs. Brainard H. Warner, III
Mrs. Theodore W. Dominick	Mrs. John E. Pflieger	Mrs. Millard F. West, Jr.
Mrs. Robert W. Duemling	Mrs. Joseph L. Raugh, Jr.	Mrs. Anthony T. Wilson
Mrs. Avery C. Faulkner	Mrs. L. William Seidman	Mrs. Orme Wilson
Mrs. John Clifford Folger	Mrs. John F. Simmons	
Mrs. Nancy M. Folger	Mrs. Roy Slade	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mrs. John E. Chapoton	Mrs. Peter Hermes	Mrs. Rinaldo Petrignani
Mrs. Thomas O. Enders	Mrs. Andrew J. Jacovides	Mrs. Edward C. Schmults
	Mrs. Craig Nalen	

The Women's Committee wishes to thank

THE COCA-COLA COMPANY

for donating the wines served at the Ball

The Committee also thanks the following for their valuable assistance

City Lights

Hargrove, Inc.

HDO Productions

Plastics of Philadelphia

Quaker Felt Company

The Truland Foundation

Patwood Construction Company

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART

Mr. David Lloyd Kreeger, *President*

Mr. Freeborn G. Jewett, Jr., *First Vice President*

Mr. John H. Hall, Jr., *Second Vice President*

Mr. Niles W. Bond, *Secretary*

Mr. Lee M. Folger, *Treasurer*

Mr. Curtin Winsor, Jr., *Assistant Treasurer*

Mrs. Albert Abramson

Mrs. Melvin Barry, Jr.

Mrs. Bernhard G. Bechhoefer

Mr. Niles W. Bond

Mrs. Daniel J. Boorstin

Mrs. Daniel J. Callahan, III

Mr. Oliver T. Carr, Jr.

Mr. Lisle C. Carter, Jr.

Mr. Leo A. Daly, III

Mrs. Robert W. Duemling

Mrs. Abul Huda Farouki

Mrs. Norman Farquhar

Mr. John D. Firestone

The Honorable Wm. H. G. FitzGerald

Mr. Lee M. Folger

Mrs. Gerald A. Freed

Mr. Carl M. Freeman

Mrs. Murray J. Gart

Mr. John H. Hall, Jr.

Mr. George E. Hamilton, Jr.

Dr. Armand Hammer

Mrs. H. John Heinz, III

Mrs. Wallace F. Holladay

The Honorable Hadlai A. Hull

Mr. Freeborn G. Jewett, Jr.

Mr. Gilbert H. Kinney

Mr. Bernard Koteen

Mr. David Lloyd Kreeger

Mrs. Stacy B. Lloyd

Mrs. John A. Logan

Mrs. Leonard H. Marks

Mr. Charles E. McKittrick, Jr.

Mr. William F. McSweeney, Jr.

Mrs. Edwin Meese, III

The Honorable J. William Middendorf, II

Mrs. John U. Nef

Mr. Mandell J. Ourisman

Mr. Maxwell Oxman

Mr. Michael M. Rea

Mrs. Walter S. Salant

Mrs. Stanley J. Sarnoff

Mr. B. Francis Saul, II

Mr. Raymond L. Scherer

Mr. Frederic W. Schwartz, Jr.

Mr. Leonard L. Silverstein

Mrs. John Lewis Smith, Jr.

Mr. Carleton B. Swift, Jr.

Mrs. Wynant D. Vanderpool, Jr.

Mr. Robert L. Walsh, Jr.

Mrs. Brainard H. Warner, III

Mrs. John W. Warner

Mr. Robert B. Washington, Jr.

Mr. J. Burke Wilkinson

Mr. Curtin Winsor, Jr.

Mrs. Sidney R. Yates

Mrs. David N. Yerkes

Ex-Officio

Mrs. S. Robert Baldinger

Mr. Frederick J. O. Blachly

Mrs. John K. Tabor

Trustees Emeriti

Mr. Corcoran Thom, Jr.

The Honorable Stanley Woodward

Color separations Sun Crown Inc., Washington, DC

Design Hubert Leckie, Washington, DC

Dinner Ridgewell's, Washington, DC

Invitations Decatur Press, Inc., Washington, DC

Liquor MacArthur Liquors, Inc., Washington, DC

Music Michael Carney, New York, NY

Emery Davis, Washington, DC

Skinnners Eddy, Frederick, MD

Parking Diplomat Parking, Washington, DC

Printing Council Press Incorporated, Hyattsville, MD



